Cannon's Grave near Taunton

Nov. 3rd 1853. Thursday.

My very D. Mr. May.

With my pen between my first & 2d. fingers, (right hand!) I will send you my hearty thanks for your kind & generous letter: but you must not grieve for me: I have much to make me an object of congratulation. Even the loss, at first, of the continued use of my hand, is favorable for me: for nothing short of utter weakness would have stayed my hand as I have been obliged to do, for ~~a~~ time. But I write with as much interest as ever into our accustomed A.S. topics, & can read, & I cannot write.

I am in a little trouble about the Crisis. Wm would take a lodging-house contrary, I believe, to the advice of his best & wisest friends. I cannot tell whence he gets the money even to begin? I should like to know, before I say ill, or strongly against it. Bronson talked

against it. Miss Lushington thought he went counsel, & offered him & Ellen some superintendence of the indust. depart.t of the Cobham Schools. Do not repeat any of this to Ci injury: he is suspicious & offended, but is really a good fellow. I fear however he must go this Ther resting proofs of burning his fingers. Ellen continues all we have ever found her to be.

Mr. M'Vicar & Miss Pugh were most delightful visitants to our home circle.

With love & regards to my many valued friends & with very deep interest in all that concerns you

Believe me

Yours affectionately

J. B. Estlin

Rec.d (in N. York) with Miss E.'s of Nov. 7th '33
on the 7th Dec. '33.

Nov. 7 - 1853. Taunton.

Mr. Ivey,

Indisposition prevented my waiting the
accompaniment to this last Friday. I was
could have sent something better worth
having after keeping it four days, but soon I
hope to make up for present deficiencies.
My Father has been an excursion to Bristol
returned here in the interim; he goes about
home, this always the better for movement of
all sorts walking, riding in carriage, or on rail
road cars. He likes to have the sense of independ-
ent being looked after, & keepers my being in
different place that he may come & go to
me. So I hope to manage this for the next
two or three months during which time some
very intimate young friends (the Miss Parkes)
will be residing in Bristol & one is delighted
to be his companion as much as he wishes,
while he feels as much at ease with them as if
they were his daughters & I can depend upon their
sending for me at an hours notice if anything ails
him. All these particulars are to make you at
ease respecting us, & to prevent your being frightened if
rumor should reach you that I am absent from
home on account of my health, whereas it really
is not so bad as it was last autumn & as it has
at different times thro'
been many years of my life. You will remember
the name of Taunton I dare say. It is the Town
at which you attended a Unitarian Assoc. meeting
in 1843 & made an address which resulted in the

much talked of remonstrance on slavery which was
afterwards sent by our Body to their American brethr
We are at the house of my Uncle Mr Bagehot, but
shall be leaving in a few days. Any thing you h
time to write is very precious to us, & when you
do not say too much that is personal, so as
to seem eulogistic, we let some of our sympath
anti-slavery friends benefit by your letters. But do not fear
our ever showing to others what you intend
only for ourselves. I cut off, or erase, before gi
a letter out of my hands where there is anythi
private. Ever yours very sincerely, (may
I say affectionately too?) & thank you for fe
one nearer enough to you for you to call me
"Mary.")

Mary A Estlin.

My Father can write more clearly th
this, but it costs him more effort. This is o
way he has just adopted, "ignoring" his fo
finger & thumb he says. He can walk fou
miles in the course of a day without undue
fatigue.

MSS. B/V/6/5, p. 9